

# A Box Of Chocolate

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By Myra Morgan

For 25 years there's been someone special on my Christmas list, and for 25 years I've bought him a very special gift — a box of chocolates. Giving that box of candy is as much a part of Christmas to me as putting up my tree, and getting it is just as much a part of his Christmas. Maybe we almost have to lose someone to realize how much they mean to us. We almost lost Boyce this year, and it started me thinking back to what he has been to all of our family.

I've known Boyce Cook all my life. He and Moselle live across the road from my old home place. We're not relatives, but some people might think so if they were around us much.

My clearest memories of Boyce start during the time Bro. Herman Milner was our pastor

at the Star Baptist Church. We all walked to church, a good mile from our houses. Bro. Milner talked a lot with our families, just being neighborly, but somehow made an impression on us about church attendance. Boyce started going to church every Sunday — rain, shine, even snow! And we walked with him!! At the time there were six of us Lee children (another came along later), and on any given Sunday morning, no matter what the weather, you could see us, with Boyce, spread all across the road. Mama would get us up and help us get dressed for church, but instead of waiting for her we would walk with Boyce. He always went early, and as soon as we saw his front door open, we'd start running to go with him.

We never thought during those years how much influence he might have on us. We re-

member the times they would give him a pin for not missing a Sunday, but at the time the years involved didn't seem to matter to us kids. We didn't really think too much about the kind of man Boyce was. The things that were really important then were the old log truck that was our "clock" in the afternoon. We played until we heard him cross the railroad track; then it was time to go help Mama set the table for supper. We remember the bird dogs he'd let out in the evenings so they could run. The problem was they usually ran to me and my sisters, scratching us and knocking us down because they wanted to play. Boyce tried to keep them in his yard, but to no avail.

Boyce is a simple, quiet man. He never says much. I never heard him raise his voice to anyone. He never fussed at us for running

through his garden or letting the dogs out of the pen. But he always listened to what we had to say, no matter how childish it might have been. He had his way of letting us know he cared when we made good grades in school, or did really good at a piano recital, or some other thing we might expect praise for. Usually, though, it was just a look on his face, not by anything he said.

Boyce taught us Lee kids a big lesson in life. About faithfulness. About character. He was faithful — to his family, to us and our parents, to his friends, but mostly to his God. He never told us to go to church. He showed us how. We saw more in Boyce than most people can every say in their lifetime. We saw him go to Sunday School for 32 years without missing a Sunday. We saw the look on his face when he was proud

of us. He was just the sort of person that never has to say anything. He just showed it to us all those years.

Time has taken its toll on Boyce. I've watched him during the past years suffer a major heart attack that after those 32 years of Sunday School attendance kept him home for a few Sundays. He suffers from palsy, and it isn't easy for him to get around any more. But he's still here. He's been as much a part of our family as any uncle we've had. I thank God that Christmas is almost here again, and this year I'll be able to wrap another box of chocolates, bigger than ever, to put under his Christmas tree. I think this Christmas will be really special because I can also share this story with him; he needs to know how I feel about that box of chocolates.



among  
all nations  
Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions  
Lottie Moon Christmas Offering  
National Goal \$40,500,000

## Diane Smith Elected To WMU Staff



Smith

Effective Jan. 2, Diane "D.P." Smith of Jackson will become Acteens consultant for Mississippi Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, according to Marjean Patterson, executive director, WMU.

Miss Smith is a graduate of Mississippi University for Women and earned the master of religious education degree in 1978 from Southwestern

(Continued on Page 3)

# The Baptist Record

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## FMB Allots Relief Funds, Says Farewell To Cauthen

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Continuing to respond to the needs of Cambodian refugees, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board appropriated another \$40,000 in December to assist missionaries working with the Cambodians flooding into Thailand.

This allocation, along with more than \$130,000 voted for other projects, brought the year's total relief appropriations to a record \$3,039,293.

But an event much closer to home captured most of the attention at the December session. Meeting in the chapel that bears his name, the board and staff said their farewells to Baker James Cauthen, who will retire Dec. 31 after 26 years as the board's executive leader.

Calling his wife Eloise to his side, Cauthen expressed appreciation for the board members and for the Southern Baptists they represent. He said he plans to spend the first months of retirement "preaching all up and down the country" before going to California to teach next year at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley.

But the Cauthens will maintain their residence in Richmond, he said, and will return there after the year at Golden Gate. Then, with a twinkle in his eye, he added: "Eloise says to tell you that we already have our cemetery lots here."

He turned to R. Keith Parks, executive director-elect: "Keith, three weeks from today, you'll have a load

on you. Eloise and I will be praying for you."

Board President John W. Patterson

of Richmond presented the Cauthens three bound volumes of letters. "These represent people all over who are say-

ing we love you," he said.

In business actions, the board ap-

(Continued on Page 3)



### Grand Prize Winner

Trinity Baptist Church, Carthage, was the top winner in the Christmas Parade at Carthage last year, capturing the Grand Prize Winner trophy and also claiming first place in the religious category. The big winner was adjudged as the one best

carrying out the parade theme, "Peace On Earth." The parade, with 39 units, was staged late one night because of rain. David Barham was parade chairman.

## "The Lord Didn't Want Me To Raise Money"

By Tim Nicholas

In 1964, while Clarence Cutrell was pastor of First Baptist Church, Eupora, John Alexander of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Stewardship department, invited him to a training session on church building fund campaigns.

"I said then the Lord didn't want me to raise money," said Cutrell. At the end of December Clarence Cutrell will retire from his job at the convention board which has had him doing just that—helping churches raise money. For the past 12 years Cutrell has been consultant for the board's Stewardship department helping churches with campaigns, leading stewardship workshops, and promoting the Cooperative Program.

After Alexander invited him to join the staff in 1967, he found out he would be helping with the money raising campaigns. "I was in doubt as to my ability to do it," he recalls. But in the past six years, for instance, Cutrell helped 32 churches raise \$4,340,541. This past year more than a million dollars was raised by churches in building fund campaigns coordinated by Cutrell.



Cutrell

"It was after five or six campaigns that I began to see the spiritual potential," said Cutrell. "In these last few years, these building fund campaigns have been the source of my greatest fulfillment." He said many people see them as doing more than just raising money. Out of campaigns many times comes closer fellowship, and the feeling of a personal responsibility of doing one's part in the work of the church.

Cutrell noted that such campaigns

(Continued on Page 3)

## Three J's Are To Be Sermon Topics

Every Christian's joy, job, and judgement are some of the topics for messages to be brought to participants



White

at the Evangelism/Bible Conference set for Feb. 4-6 at First Baptist Church, Columbus.

The annual meeting, which concentrates on preaching and Bible study, is open to all persons



Lindsay

and there is no charge.

Fred White of the Home Mission Board will preach on "Every Christian's Joy," with text from Philippians 2:1-18. Homer G. Lindsay, Jr., pastor of First Church, Jacksonville, Fla., will preach on "Every Christian's Job," with text from Romans 12:1-7. And Kenneth Chafin, pastor of South Main Church, Houston, Tex., will preach on "Every Christian's Judgement," with text from II Corinthians 5:9-11.

The program opens Monday, Feb. 4, at 6:45 p.m. and closes at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 6.

Theme for the program is "Bold Giving, Growing and Going." It is sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board through the departments of Evangelism and Sunday School.

By Anita Bowden  
BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Southern Baptists, can you spare an extra dollar for Lottie Moon?

That's all it costs to put a cassette tape of Bible study materials in a village on the island of Borneo in East Malaysia. The government no longer allows missionaries like Chuck and Erica Morris to live in East Malaysia. But Baptist work there isn't stopping. The Morrises are developing a program which will allow village Christians to learn and grow in their Christian faith without having a missionary nearby.

With a \$15 to \$20 tape player and those \$1 cassette tapes produced in the villagers' own dialect, the people can receive the leadership training they would have gotten if the Morrises were still living there.

Prices are a little bit higher in neighboring Singapore. There it takes \$2 to produce a cassette tape for use in high-rise apartment evangelism, part of that city-nation's Major City Evangelism program.

The ministry already is "beginning to reach people who are non-Christians and also to help Christians develop as leaders," says Jeanne Walker, director of Singapore's media center. "I think \$2 is a good investment of the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering."

Unfortunately, \$1 or \$2 won't build and equip a recording studio in Spain, or purchase printing equipment for Bibles and other literature in Brazil, or buy two new movie projectors to show gospel films in Gaza. But money from the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions is doing all these things.

It's also helping expand facilities for Christian literature distribution in Peru. "For several years now the communists have made a real effort to inundate the country with communist

propaganda and literature," says Robert Tucker, missionary field representative for Western South America. "Already Peru is leading all other Spanish-speaking countries of Latin America in several categories of literature distribution, but we see the need as even more urgent than in the past."

Last year's Lottie Moon Offering paid for a new publications and audiovisual center in Abidjan, Ivory Coast. This year missionaries are hoping the offering will be able to give them nearly \$40,000 for equipment to produce pamphlets, cassettes, films and filmstrips in that building for the six French-speaking countries in West Africa where Southern Baptists have work.

### Recording Studio

A new radio recording studio in the Middle East, which was financed by Lottie, is making possible the potential for "the entire Arab world with 160 million people, 95 percent of them Muslim, to come under the sound of the gospel, especially in countries where we have no missionaries in residence," says Finlay Graham, field representative for the Middle East.

But in some countries even this special offering can't meet the high cost of air waves. In Taiwan, radio programming has been cut down from seven to five days a week, and direct television programming has been completely eliminated. In this case, missionaries saw the "handwriting on the wall" and began moving to a video cassette ministry. But even there inflation took its toll. "The increase in the prices of equipment from the time we put in the request until the time we received it was so great that we had to cut back and couldn't quite finish out the studio," says missionary Fred Debenport.

Every time Singapore missionaries buy one evangelistic film, it costs \$300 to \$500. Then if it's shown in a large theater and promoted through handbills and the local newspaper, the cost goes up another \$500. Of course, the same film is shown many times in churches, schools and other places. But large theaters draw a higher percentage of non-Christians than churches, and the missionaries feel the additional \$500 is justified.

In Taiwan, films are big crowd attractions, too. "The Chinese people are always anxious to see a movie if it's in color, has Chinese people in it and is in the Chinese language," says Burton Cook. "You can draw a good size crowd on almost any village street in Taiwan. We need new films and filmstrips and movie projectors to be

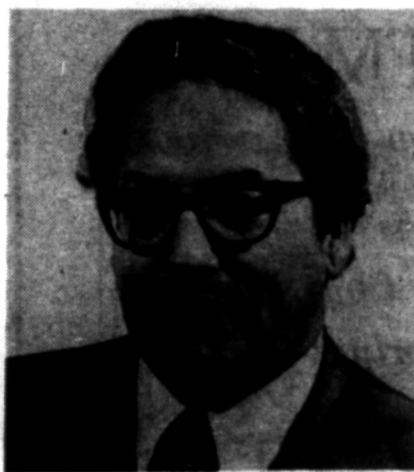
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### Lottie Moon Offering Scene —

— A Baptist library and center occupy the first floor of this high-rise apartment complex in Hong Kong. This strategy for missions in Hong Kong is partially supported by the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions. A total of \$497,000 is allocated from the offering for Hong Kong and Macao operating budget.

## Jimmy Allen Is Named To Head Commission



Allen

By Renee Wash  
FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — Jimmy R. Allen of San Antonio, Texas, immediate past president of the Southern Baptist Convention, has been elected president of the Radio and Television Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Since 1968, Allen, who hopes to begin his new duties Jan. 15, 1980, has been pastor of the 9,500-member First Baptist Church, San Antonio, Texas, the sixth largest SBC church.

Fred Isaacs of Cosby, Tenn., chairman of the Radio and Television Commission's trustees, announced Allen's appointment Tuesday, Dec. 11, at a news conference held at the commis-

(Continued on Page 3)

## Holiday Greetings

The staff of the Baptist Record wishes for all its readers — that great and mighty group of Mississippi Baptists and others who are to be found all over the world — a most warm and memorable Christmas. May the Spirit of our Lord prevail in every occasion of this joyous season.

We end the year with a circulation of 127,550.

And in view of the fact that this is the last issue of the Baptist Record for this year, the staff also wishes for all a very happy and rewarding New Year.

# Lottie Moon's Diary

## Part III

(More excerpts from a diary Lottie Moon kept during a country evangelistic tour in 1879. She was then in the early part of her long career as a missionary in North China.)

A VILLAGE IN NORTH CHINA — After teaching nearly a dozen girls, I was invited to make a visit. The girls — most of them — followed and one took my hand to lead me. Arriving there, the lady of the house, who is too respectable to go out, received me very cordially and pretty soon a number of pleasant women came in. Being in an uncommonly good humor, I allowed them to ask questions and finger my clothes to their hearts' content. My shoes, my hat, my cuffs, my watch, my clothes, all came in for examination and criticism. (Note: Miss Moon later adopted Chinese-style dress.)

I have never gotten so near the people in my life as during this visit, never had so many opportunities to press home upon their consciences their duty to God and the claims of the Savior to their love and devotion. I feel more and more that this work is of God

and that he is, in a wonderful manner, opening the hearts and homes of the people to receive us.

After prayers tonight, Mrs. C. said to the men that she was "tired to death" and invited them to come again tomorrow. Two of them, however, are still lingering, one of the two a bright, young teacher who is our host.

Today, the usual routine of teaching women and children. I noted an incident peculiarly Chinese. A woman was persuading a boy to do something he did not wish to do, and said: "Do, and I'll look out a daughter-in-law for you." This arises, of course, from the fact that in Chinese ideas the most important relation a woman can hold is that of daughter-in-law.

April 9 — To our surprise, this morning, we found that snow had fallen in the night to the depth of about two inches. Mrs. C. remarked that she knew Mrs. — was pitying us very much, and saying that this work we are doing isn't "woman's sphere." It is comfortable to know that we are responsible to God and not to man. It is a small matter to be judged of man's judgment.

It is pleasant to be out of that dirty hole in which we have spent two days

and nights. Our quarters tonight are "palatial." We have two rooms, a large sitting room and sleeping apartments with a pretty good-sized kong. In this room there is no furniture but there are some broom-corn stalks, a big pile of tobacco, some ropes, a roll of matting, a man's saddle, a cotton beater, two old baskets filled with pine burs, and various other things of which I know no English name. The wall, which is not black but only a dull brown, is adorned with a picture which, in a Western house, would pass for Satan for its ugliness.

The sensation of cleanliness is enjoyable; the air here is not impregnated with the odors of past generations of smoke. In a word, we have come from a hovel to a palace.

There was a big crowd this afternoon and great disorder, but we managed to do some teaching. I suppose we would have had a crowd tonight, but fearing the dampness of our sitting-room with its dirt floor, we declined to receive anyone and retired to the kong, which is warm and comfortable. True, there was a suffocating smoke when it was heated, but this passed out on opening doors. I forgot to say we have a piece of new, clean matting on the kong. Is it any wonder we feel like kings' daughters tonight? Suspended from the ceiling are graceful festoons of spiders' webs a yard or two in length, adorned with smoke and dust.

Mrs. C. says I should tell what a jolly time we have had all through our trip, "not laughing only when we were too tired to speak."

April 10 — Spent the morning teaching; this afternoon visited three villages. In the last two, my mind was touched with sympathy for the Savior's feeling when he was "moved with compassion because . . . they were . . . as sheep having no shepherd." It was easy to speak tenderly and earnestly to them, and some seemed to take in the words eagerly.

April 12, TUNGCHOW — We came home today, a distance of twenty miles, in a fearful windstorm. It seemed as if chair and bearers would be blown away. The air was filled with clouds of dust. We stopped at one village, were invited into an inn, and spent nearly an hour in talking to attentive listeners.

(Lottie Moon steadily increased her country work until she felt called to settle herself in Pingtu. At this inland county, 120 miles from any other foreigner, she lived in Chinese fashion until she established a church. This became the mother church for more than thirty others. From Pingtu, she wrote the moving letters which helped cause the organization of Woman's Missionary Union. She also suggested a Christmas time offering which would raise funds for additional missionaries. The first offering brought in more than \$3,000. This year's Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions has a goal of \$40,500,000.)

## The Virgin Mary to the Child Jesus

Sleep! Sleep, mine HOLY ONE!  
My flesh, my Lord! — what name? I do not know —  
A name that seemeth not too high or low,  
Too far from me or Heaven.  
My JESUS, that is best; that Name being given  
By the majestic angel whose command  
Was softly as a man's beseeching said,  
When I and all the earth appeared to stand  
In the great overflow  
Of light celestial from His wings and head!  
Sleep! Sleep, my SAVING ONE!

We sat among the stalls at Bethlehem,  
The dumb kine from their fodder turning them,  
Softened their horned faces  
To almost human gazes  
Toward the Newly Born;  
The simple shepherds from star-lit brooks  
Brought visionary looks,  
As yet in their astonished hearing, rung  
The strange, sweet angel-tongue:  
The magi of the East, in sandals worn,  
Knelt reverent, sweeping round,  
With long pale beards, their gifts upon the ground,  
The incense, myrrh, and gold  
Those baby hands were impotent to hold.  
So, let all earthlings and celestials wait  
Upon Thy royal state.  
Sleep! Sleep, my KINGLY ONE!

—Elizabeth Barrett Browning

## Dixie, E. Moss Point Lead In Study Awards

Dixie Baptist Church of Lebanon Association and East Moss Point, of Jackson Association, led the state during the 1978-79 church and associational year in two categories of study course awards promoted by the Church Training department.

Dixie and East Moss Point tied for top honors in the state in Church Training Leadership awards and both were ranked 15th in the Southern Baptist Convention.

First, Pascagoula, was first in Baptist Doctrine awards in Mississippi and third in the Southern Baptist Convention.

Following Dixie and East Moss Point, those ranking in the top ten in Mississippi in Church Training Leadership Awards were Locke Station, Panola; First, Greenville; First, Louisville; Priceville, Lee Association; First, Tupelo; First, Pontotoc; Standing Pine, Leake Association; First, Hattiesburg; and Petal Harvey.

Filling out the list of the top churches in Baptist Doctrine awards were First, Hattiesburg; West Heights, Pontotoc; Center Terrace, Canton; Dixie, Lebanon; Immanuel, Bolivar; Whitesand, Jeff Davis; Woodhaven, East Moss Point and Kreole, Jackson Association; and South Louisville.

Lebanon and Lee Associations were second and ninth respectively in the Southern Baptist Convention in Church Training Leadership Awards.

Jackson, Lebanon, Hinds-Madison, and Lee Associations ranked in the top 25 associations in the Southern Baptist Convention in Baptist Doctrine awards. Jackson ranked fourth and Lebanon, fifth.

## Supreme Court Rules On Sects, Church Property

WASHINGTON (BP) — In a pair of church-state actions, the U.S. Supreme Court refused to disturb lower court decisions upholding the right of members of religious sects to move about freely making solicitations in public places and declared that a California congregation which withdrew from the United Presbyterian Church owns its local property.

The high court declined without comment to review a ruling by the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals that a policy of the state of Indiana — which would have confined members of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (Hare Krishnas) to a booth at the Indiana State Fair — violated the sect's free exercise of religion.

The Indiana State Fair Board had maintained that the state had a compelling interest in restricting the sect's members to a booth, arguing that it was obligated to protect the public from fraud and from the nuisance created by Hare Krishnas' pinning flowers on passersby.

By declining to take up the California church property case, the high court left standing a state court ruling that the majority of members of the Community Church of Palm Springs, Calif., hold title to their church property in spite of their withdrawal from the United Presbyterian Church.

The denomination had claimed that it owns all local church property and that title to such property reverts to the mother body when a local congregation votes to withdraw.

The dispute was similar to a Georgia case settled last spring by the Supreme Court also involving a Presbyterian congregation. The Court ruled then that so-called "Neutral principles

of law" may be applied to church property disputes. That legal doctrine means that state property laws may be applied to church property disputes when the mother body's incorporation papers leave doubt as to ownership.

The United Presbyterian Church, in light of that Supreme Court ruling, is currently restudying its incorporation documents to come up with new language which will insure in the future that the denomination controls local church property in such disputes.

## Gambling Education Follows Convention Move

Evidently many pastors in the state are planning anti-gambling education in January following the adoption of a resolution by the Mississippi Baptist Convention calling for such education.

The Christian Action Commission is offering two tracts that are aimed at aiding the anti-gambling education in the churches, and a spokesman said there have been a number of calls for the material. The tracts are titled, "What's So Bad about Gambling?" and "The Temptation of Gambling."

During its November session the Mississippi Baptist Convention adopted a resolution suggesting that "we encourage our churches to observe an anti-gambling education emphasis sometime during the month of January 1980, preferably on January 13, following the suggestion of the Christian Action Commission to the pastors. . . ." The resolution further stated that "as citizens, we oppose the legalization of gambling in any form and communicate our attitudes to our elected officials at all levels of state government."

In the fall of 1978, the Christian Action Commission appointed an ad hoc committee consisting of Chairman Tom Sims, Richton attorney; Ervin Brown, Brandon; Randy Mobley, Olive Branch; Don Henderson, Nesbit; Allen Webb, Pascagoula; and Bobby Perry, Moss Point. It was this committee that developed strategy for anti-gambling education and opposition to legislation favoring gambling. Acting upon the committee's recommendations, the Christian Action Commission legislative committee, chaired by Marvin Graham of Foxworth, led the commission to make appropriate suggestions to pastors for possible observance of an anti-gambling Sunday.

It was suggested that the education may be made from the pulpit or through the Sunday School, Church Training, Brotherhood, Baptist Women, or by a church-wide emphasis.

At this writing the Baptist Record is unaware of any pre-filed bills that would attempt to further legalize gambling, but they are perennially presented.

In the last session of the legislature a bill was passed excluding certain raffles from gambling status, stating "shall not apply to any raffle being held where the prize is offered by a non-profit, civic, educational or religious organization." The Mississippi State Constitution states that gambling in any form is to be prohibited.

## Lawrence DMF Will Aid 12 Churches

The Direct Missions Fellowship of Lawrence Association voted on Nov. 29 to give financial support to twelve home missions concerns. One time gifts will be sent to churches from New York state to North Dakota while monthly aid will be conferred upon four missions stations.

In other business of the biannual meeting, held at the Newhebron Church, W. J. Nelson, a deacon of the New Hope Church, was elected to the post of General Chairman, succeeding David Rogers who moved from the county earlier this year.

## Parks Installation Set

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — An installation service for R. Keith Parks, executive director-elect of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, will be held Jan. 7 at board headquarters in Richmond.

Parks, who has served as the board's mission support division director since 1975, will replace Baker J. Cauthen, who will retire Dec. 31.

Cauthen, in the main address, will offer a challenge to Southern Baptists for their future in foreign missions. Parks will respond to that challenge, giving some directions he hopes Southern Baptist foreign missions work will take.

Others participating in the installation will be Carolyn Weatherford, executive director, Woman's Missionary Union; Harold C. Bennett, executive secretary-treasurer, Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee; Grady C. Cothen, president, Baptist Sunday School Board; James H. Smith, executive director-treasurer, Brotherhood Commission; John W. Patterson, president, Foreign Mission Board; Luther Joe Thompson, pastor, First Baptist Church, Richmond; and William R. O'Brien, secretary for the Foreign Mission Board's denominational coordination department.

## Closest Convention Hotels Already Full

ST. LOUIS (BP) — The 11 hotels closest to the site of the 1980 Southern Baptist Convention in St. Louis are filled, according to convention manager Jim Hedquist. Hedquist said 13 of the 27 hotels cooperating with the city's convention bureau were filled as of Nov. 10. The closest hotel with rooms then available is four miles from the Cervantes Convention Center, where the annual meeting will be held June 10-12.

The rush of early reservations is no indication that record breaking crowds will jam the meetings next June, Hedquist said. He indicated that because of good publicity and the housing problems messengers encountered at the 1979 meeting in Houston, people are taking seriously the need to get their housing requests in early.

The St. Louis convention bureau is handling all housing requests and a computer form is requested for each request. The forms are available at state Baptist convention offices, from Hedquist's office at the Southern Baptist Convention Building in Nashville, or in the November issue of the "Baptist Program." Many state Baptist newspapers have printed the forms.

No one should panic for fear they won't get a room, Hedquist said, because there are still many rooms available, including more than 4,000 in outlying and smaller hotels that don't cooperate with the convention bureau. Unlike the convention in Houston, there will be adequate parking in public lots around the convention center.

Neither the convention bureau nor hotels will deal with individual housing problems, Hedquist said. He indicated

some confirmations are delayed by scheduled computer listings, but he receives an update at least every month. Anyone with a housing problem should contact him at 615-244-2355.

Hotels that were filled as of Nov. 15 are: Sheraton St. Louis; Bel Air Hilton; Holiday Inn-Riverfront; Stouffer's Riverfront; Marriott's Pavilion; Mayfair Hotel; Lennox Hotel; Best Western-St. Louis; Holiday Inn-Downtown; Rodeway Inn-Downtown; Ramada Inn-Downtown; Executive Inn-International; Sheraton West Port.

## Foundation Participants' Fund Totals Six Million

Earnings of \$454,063 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1979 on funds held in trust by the Mississippi Baptist Foundation were reported during the annual meeting of the Foundation's Board of Trustees Dec. 6.

The trustees, meeting at the Baptist Building in Jackson, were told that this figure represented a yield on investments, for the fiscal year, of 8.22 per cent, a new record.

On June 30, 1979, the participants' fund totaled \$5,929,802.37, Harold Kitchings, executive secretary of the Foundation, revealed. Since June 30, additional funds have been added, he said, which now make the participants' fund total six million dollars.

Kearney Travis of Hattiesburg was elected president of the Board of Trustees. J. W. Barfield of Jackson was elected vice president. A. L. Boone of Winona was named chairman of the Executive Committee.

Two men going off the Board were given recognition: Charles Lofton, Brookhaven, who has served on the Executive Committee for several

years, and Jake Murphy, Laurel. Returning to the Board is Harvey Ray of Meridian. Coming to the Board for the first time is Bill Baker of Clinton.

The trustees elected Mrs. Norma Raymick as office secretary for the Baptist Foundation. Mrs. Raymick's husband, Jim, has been minister of music at Parkway Church, Jackson, for five years. Mrs. Raymick was born in Canadian, Texas. She received the B.S. degree from Hardin-Simmons University and did additional study in music at Southwestern Seminary and

North Little Rock, Ark. She and her husband have three children, Lori, 19, Lana, 16, and James, 6.

After their business session the trustees met at the Sun 'N Sand Motor Hotel for the 36th anniversary luncheon. Robert Wall of the Mississippi College staff used slides, music, script, and special lighting effects to present the ministry of the Baptist Foundation. Kitchings stated that the 18-minute program produced by Wall will be available for showing in church and associational meetings.



Baptist Foundation trustees elected Kearney Travis of Hattiesburg as president, J. W. Barfield of Jackson as vice president, and Harold Kitchings, Jackson, as secretary. Left to right: Grady Doss, Eupora, Executive Committee member; Kitchings, executive secretary, Baptist Foundation; Barfield; A. L. Boone of Winona, chairman of the Executive Committee; Travis; and E. L. Herring, Executive Committee member.



Baptist Foundation trustees met in annual session December 6 at the Baptist Building. Left to right are Harold Kitchings, executive secretary, Baptist Foundation; Kearney Travis, Hattiesburg; J. W. Barfield, Jackson; Charles Lofton, Brookhaven; Grady Doss, Eupora; John Dowdle, Columbus; A. L. Boone, Winona; Bill Baker, Clinton; Joe H. Ratcliff, McComb; E. L. Herring, Jackson.

## Volunteers Build For Volunteers

SOUTHFIELD, Mich. (BP) — Construction on a four-unit apartment building to house Baptist volunteers working in Michigan has been completed in Southfield, just a mile from the Baptist building there.

The unit is an offspring from an idea of Owen Cooper, of Yazoo City, Miss., past president of the Southern Baptist Convention, in 1975. Messengers to the Baptist State Convention of Michigan approved the building that year and made immediate plans to finance the \$225,000 project.

Many volunteers from Michigan churches were involved in the construction, decorating and landscaping. Three units will be for short-term volunteers and the fourth is to be reserved for a missionary-in-residence.



## LM Challenge

"I will never sleep again!" This response was heard from B. C. Sellers, pictured pastor of the Oakland Church, Oakland, Miss. He was writing his check to the Lottie Moon Christmas offering. After a week of tallying the number of cups of coffee he drank, Sellers sent 25 cents per cup for the missionary offering. In keeping with his promise, he challenged all of the men of his church to do the same. (Women don't drink coffee?!!!!)

## AN OLD-FASHIONED CHRISTMAS

6:30 P.M., Monday, December 24  
WAPT, Channel 16  
presented by

First Baptist Church  
Crystal Springs



# "The Lord Didn't Want Me To Raise Money"

(Continued from Page 1)

often involve great sacrifice on the part of members. One campaign director's testimony, he said, was in giving some timberland he had been saving for retirement. Cutrell said the man said "I decided the Lord might retire me any day and I wanted to see this money at work for the Lord while I'm living." The man gave the land to the campaign and was offered about twice his evaluation of its worth.

Cutrell's days of sacrifice came when he started tithing while supporting his mother and a brother on \$10 per week as a drug store soda jerk. This was shortly after he became a Christian at age 23.

In Cutrell's early years, his parents "got into Christian Science." And his father died an untimely death at age 42 "without benefit of a doctor," recalled Cutrell. And though he continued in Sunday School until age 14 and had a mother who read the Bible to him and the family, "for seven or eight years I got away from everything I'd been taught," he said.

Then, at about age 22, a former high school principal came by the store where he was clerk and told Clarence he'd pick him up that Sunday for Sunday School. He went and shortly thereafter he was going to Methodist Sunday School and BYPU (Baptist Young People's Union) on Sunday nights.

Interest grew in this Christianity and it was during a tent revival in Pine Bluff, Ark., where the preaching of Evangelist Mordecai F. Hamm, that Clarence Cutrell made a profession of faith in Jesus Christ.

The pastor of First Church, Pine Bluff, Perry Webb, Sr., and a Baptist layman took an interest in young Cutrell and helped him in the formation of his doctrine. He said it took him about a month, though, to decide whether to be a Methodist or a Baptist. The differences in beliefs toward baptism convinced him to be Baptist, he said.

In only a year he had been licensed and ordained to the gospel ministry and had met Willa Shults who was to become his wife. For their first date, "I invited her to a revival service. I

didn't even know her name," said Cutrell, who met her at the drug store. In January of 1937 Cutrell entered Ouachita Baptist (College) University and in August of 1938 he married Willa. With some temporary setbacks, like a slipped disc, Cutrell eventually ended up with a theology degree from New Orleans Seminary.

During those years he was pastor of churches in Planeville, Batesville, and Eudora, all in Arkansas. Then to Mississippi where he was pastor of Calhoun City, First Church for seven years; Trinity Church, Biloxi for three years; and then to Eupora, First Church for four and a half years.

In 1964, he left Eupora to go into associational work. He was director of missions for Grenada-Yalobusha for two and a half years, then at Rankin for one year. He started at the convention board in 1967.

He said he's missed the pastorate. "The joys that come in watching people grow." Until this year he has done more preaching in the stewardship job than he did as a pastor, but lately he said he's been too busy with stewardship workshops and campaigns.

"There's something about making that preparation for the same congregation that makes you fresh," he said, "and makes you keep up with Bible study," added Cutrell, who is generally known by his fellow workers as a Bible scholar.

**More Alive**  
"I am more alive when I am preaching than any other time," he said. "There is a sense of rightness," not overconfidence, he added.

Hypertension keeps him from enjoying some of the detail work of keeping up with figures, but this, he said is something he enjoys anyway.

"I'm really encouraged. I think the Bold Mission Thrust is really catching on and we are noting some things that are very encouraging," he said. He explained that the percentage of the total offering plate given to the Cooperative Program is rising. In 1969, it reached its peak at 11.27 per-

cent, then began to fall to about 9 percent. Now it is back up in the 10 percent range. "Pastors are the key influence 97 percent of the time," said Cutrell.

Another area of giving that encourages Cutrell is that 12 years ago about 350 Mississippi Baptist churches were not giving anything to the Cooperative Program. Today that figure has been cut in half.

Cutrell began his ministry five years before the campaign "Debt Free in '43." "I really became sold on the Cooperative Program early in my ministry. I've watched it grow," he said.

He said he feels the Cooperative Program is what holds Southern Baptists together, plus it is something that people can use to "blow off steam" when they are angry at a program or policy.

**Unlimited Resources**  
In his years of ministry Cutrell said there are several things he would like to have changed about the way churches do business. "At least 50 percent of church budgets are based on a church's concept of what man has proven he can do—instead of the unlimited resources of God," said Cutrell.

Of ornate church facilities he said, "There must be balance between the esthetic and the practical. If it's not serving to reach new people, it's not necessary." He said he still does not know how he feels about church gymnasiums.

He would like the seminaries to have something like a department of stewardship and mission support, "teaching these men how to conduct financial campaigns and money management."

Cutrell said that many pastors think nothing of putting their churches deeply into debt. He said he knows of churches that couldn't pay a staff, or participate in missions for many years, because of being saddled with large building debts.

Of retirement, Cutrell said the prospect of not being completely busy has bothered him a bit. He's got three building fund campaigns lined up to work on for the Stewardship department on a part time basis. And he plans to do some pulpit supply. Wherever he goes, Southern Baptists can be assured that in him the Cooperative Program has a fan and the Lord has a servant.

## AMONG ALL NATIONS



### White Christmas at Caesar

For most Baptists, Christmas time means Lottie Moon offering time. Union Church at Caesar, Pearl River County, combined the two when it designated Sunday, December 9 as White Christmas Day, when its Lottie Moon offering would be taken. A goal of \$4,000 was set.

Each Sunday School class set its own goal for the offering that day, and at the beginning of the morning worship service the amounts of these offerings were tallied. The total amount was not \$4,000 but \$5,083.11.

## Jimmy Allen Is Named To Head R-TV Commission

(Continued from Page 1)

sion after a called meeting of the agency's full board of trustees. Isaacs headed the search committee which submitted Allen's name for consideration by the board.

Trustees pledged their full support to the 52-year-old Allen, who was elected unanimously to succeed Paul M. Stevens, commission president for 26 years, who was forced by trustees to retire last February. They made Stevens' retirement effective Oct. 31 but relieved him immediately as chief administrative officer. Harold E. Martin, executive vice president, who has since left to take a teaching post, and Charles P. Roden, a long-time commission employee, have served as interim chief administrators during the search for a new president.

Isaacs said Allen will receive a basic salary of \$45,000 per year, plus a 10 percent annuity contribution of \$4,500 and \$9,600 in housing allowance.

A priority of the commission will be to increase assistance to churches already using radio and television, said Allen, who has been involved in innovative uses of television during his ministry in San Antonio.

He said Christians must also discover new ways to spread the gospel through radio and television. To do this, he said, the commission will not only continue to nurture its existing "excellent relationship with national television and radio networks" but will also "explore ways and means of accelerating a more direct prime time witness through television."

"The commission's reputation for technical excellence is established and must be maintained," he continued. "The equipment is the finest in the nation. I think our people (Southern Baptists) are ready for prime time."

In his 12 years at First Baptist Church, San Antonio, he led his church in a program of evangelism and social ministry, which included baptisms ranging from 225 to 558 a year, a street ministry, counseling service, hunger program, a free medical clinic, three Spanish language missions, and extensive work in refugee resettlement. In 1979, the church has baptized 417 persons.

Allen has had an unusual combination of backgrounds in ministry and media. For four years, he hosted a youth discussion and music program on KMOL-TV, San Antonio, and appeared regularly to present the "Moral Side of the News" as a segment of KSAT-TV, which also broadcasts the church's Sunday morning worship service. He also has written a weekly column for the San Antonio Express News for 11 years.

A graduate of Howard Payne University, Brownwood, Texas, Allen also earned bachelor of divinity and doctor of theology degrees from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, and holds honorary doctorates from the University of Richmond (Va.) and Howard Payne. He is married to the former Wanda Massey of Brownwood, Texas, and has three sons.

## Sunday School Sets Teaching/Growth Meets

A total of 32 Sunday School Teaching/Growth Conferences are set in 1980 for Mississippi Baptists. These conferences are designed to activate a "growth spirit" and offer fundamentals for better Bible teaching.

Each meeting will have two parts: a general session and a specialization session. The second will include four age group conferences, one for pastor and staff, and one for Sunday School directors.

The meetings are sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Sunday School department. Each meeting will begin at 7 p.m. and conclude at 9:30.

A complete schedule for 1980 is listed below.

- Jan. 21, Pascagoula, First
- Jan. 22, Biloxi, First
- Jan. 24, Picayune, First
- Feb. 11, Wiggins, First
- Feb. 12, Lucedale, First
- Feb. 25, Kosciusko, First
- Feb. 28, Brookhaven, First
- Mar. 3, Hattiesburg, Temple
- Mar. 4, Brandon, First
- Mar. 20, Natchez, First
- Mar. 25, Quitman, Mission Center
- Mar. 27, Bay Springs, Bay Springs
- Apr. 7, Vicksburg, Woodlawn
- Apr. 8, Jackson, Parkway
- Apr. 14, Leland, First
- Apr. 15, Greenwood, First
- Apr. 17, Yazoo City, Calvary
- Apr. 21, Corinth, First
- Apr. 22, Amory, First
- Apr. 24, Winona, First
- May 1, Southaven, Colonial Hills
- May 5, McComb, First
- May 6, Meridian, Calvary
- May 15, Union, First
- May 19, Cleveland, Immanuel
- May 20, Clarksdale, Oakhurst
- May 26, Holly Springs, First
- May 27, Oxford, North Oxford
- May 29, Bruce, First
- June 16, Starkville, First
- June 17, Louisville, East
- June 19, Laurel, West Laurel

## Ridgcrest Will Have Live Scene Of The Nativity

A live nativity scene will be shown in the church yard at Ridgcrest Church, Edwards Street, Hattiesburg, beginning the night of Dec. 21, from 6 until 9 p.m.

The scene may also be viewed on Dec. 22 and Dec. 23 from 6 until 9 p.m. The public is invited to drive by.

## Christian Action, Miss. Seminary Plan Seminars

A series of Human Relations Seminars are scheduled for mid-January in four Mississippi cities. The five semi-



Bogan



Michel



Hamilton



Jordan



McComb



North

nars—two will be in Jackson—are set for Jan. 14, 15, 16, and 17, with five Mississippi Baptist pastors as guest speakers at the meetings. Dick Brogan, president of Mississippi Baptist Seminary in Jackson will speak at all of the meetings, telling about the program of the seminary.

Other speakers will each lead sessions at one of the five meetings. Dates, speakers, and place of meetings is as follows: Jan. 14, P. A. Michel, at Co-Lin Junior College, Brookhaven; Jan. 15 (two meetings) J. Roy McComb, Baptist Building, Jackson (morning); and Ed North, Mississippi Baptist Seminary, Jackson (evening); Jan. 16, Jackie Hamilton, First Baptist Church, Starkville; and Jan. 17, Harold Jordan, Delta Junior College, Moorhead.

The meetings will all take place 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. with the exception of the Mississippi Baptist Seminary meeting which will begin at 7 p.m. Michel is pastor of First Church, Brookhaven. McComb is pastor of First Church, Columbia. North is pastor of First Church, Quitman. Hamilton is pastor of Highland Church, Meridian. And Jordan is pastor of Bowmar Avenue Church, Vicksburg.

The sessions are sponsored by the seminary and the Christian Action Commission. Black and white pastors and other church leaders are encouraged to attend.

Each of the pastor-speakers were on the 1979 summer stewardship tour to African churches and seminaries and will give a brief report of their trip prior to their message.

The new facilities of the seminary are at 3160 Lynch Street.

## She Needs

(Continued from Page 1)

used in villages and local churches."

The Taiwan mission is hoping to meet this need through a request for \$40,000 to produce a Taiwanese-language film. The missionaries hope at least a part of that money will come from the 1979 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions. Goal is \$40,500,000.

## FMB Allots Relief Funds

(Continued from Page 1)

proved the \$40,000 to provide a milk tanker and a two-ton truck for hauling milk and other food supplies to the refugee camps in Thailand.

Cauthen emphasized that the \$500,000 voted in November and this latest appropriation do not represent the maximum amount which the board is prepared to designate for this refugee work.

Both he and John R. Cheyne, associate consultant for relief ministries, stressed that the board stands ready to expand its assistance as missionaries and volunteers are able to utilize additional funds and as funds from Southern Baptists are made available.

Through November of this year, Southern Baptists have given the Foreign Mission Board more than \$2.5

million for hunger and relief work around the world, a major increase over the \$1.7 million given in all of 1978.

Cheyne said the board has been "undated by calls from people wanting to know what they can do to help in the Cambodian relief." The emphasis on Cambodia, while coming at the same time as the annual Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions, has not detracted from strong interest being shown in meeting this year's \$40.5 million Lottie Moon goal.

William R. O'Brien, secretary of the board's denominational coordination department, reported that 12,640 calls had been received by Dec. 11 through the Foreign Missions Hotline, an incoming WATS line installed to share information with Southern Baptists about their worldwide missions outreach.

## Calvary, At Pascagoula Sings "Praise"

Pascagoula's Calvary Church, one of the hardest-hit churches in the state by Hurricane Frederic, combined its musical groups with a praise service of "Christmas Praise Celebration," Sunday, Dec. 16 at 7 p.m. in their sanctuary.

Groups participating in the celebration were: Beginner and Primary Chords under direction of Mrs. Dora Nell Odum and Tracy Coon; Junior Choir under direction of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Nicholson Davis; Youth Choir under direction of Mr. and Mrs. Davis; Sanctuary Choir under direction of Mrs. Byron Mathis—accompanists: pianist, Mrs. Charles Davis; organist, Mrs. Janet Martin.

Instrumentalists were: Rhonda Mullen, Christmas folk music on the guitar; Buddy Mathis, trumpet and electric piano; Mrs. Charles Davis, clarinet; Youth Choir members, band instruments; Charles Davis, pipes from the organ.

The celebration featured a mini-pipe organ concert of Christmas music by music and youth director, Charles Nicholson Davis.

## Sharretts Will Be In Concert At Carey

The Sharretts, a gospel trio, will be presented in concert in William Carey College's Thomas Hall Auditorium, Hattiesburg, on Saturday, Dec. 22, at 7 p.m. The concert is presented by the Real Life Concert Ministries.

Also featured during the program will be Chris Elkins, a widely traveled Christian speaker who spent three years as a member of the Unification Church (Moonies) prior to his acceptance of Christ.

The Sharretts perform a variety of Christian music, ranging from standard hymns to contemporary gospel. The group have made frequent appearances on "PTL (Praise The Lord)," a nationally syndicated Christian television series, and they are regular guests at the "Joyful Noise" coffee house in Atlanta. They have also appeared on the "700 Club" TV program.

Elkins has been featured on "Good Morning, America" and "ABC Closeup." He has recently completed a book about the Unification Church. Entitled "Heavenly Deception," the work is now being produced as a movie.

## Diane Smith...

(Continued from Page 1)

Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex. She has done interim and summer youth work at Broadway Church, Fort Worth; Broadmoor Church, Jackson; and First Church, Albuquerque, N. Mex. She comes to the board from an interim position as youth minister at First Baptist Church, Jackson.

The daughter of the D. P. Smiths of Jackson, she has served as a summer missionary in North Dakota and worked on Glorieta Baptist Conference Center's summer staff.

Acteins is the WMU organization for junior and senior high girls.

## Grady Crowell

### Elected DOM

Grady Crowell is new director of missions for Clarke and Wayne Baptist Associations.

A native of Winston County, Miss., Crowell comes back to Mississippi from Loveland, Ohio, where he has been pastor of Springvale Baptist Church since 1975.

A graduate of Clarke College and Mississippi College, Crowell earned the bachelor of divinity degree (now the master of divinity) from New Orleans Seminary.

He has been pastor of Crystal Ridge and West End Churches, both in Louisville, Miss.; Briel Avenue Church, Natchez; Bethlehem Church, Hartselle, Ala.; New Friendship Church, Somerville, Ala.; First Church, Felicita, Ohio; and Grace Missionary Church, Norwood, Ohio.

The Springvale Church is sponsor of Blackhawk Baptist Mission near Blanchester, Ohio, and is the third mission in which Crowell has been pastor of the mother church.

Crowell is married to the former Martha Ann Hall of Malone, Fla. They have one daughter.

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# The Baptist Record

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

## Editorials

### The birth of Christ . . .

## We can't wait to tell

Two weeks ago I was in Bethlehem for my third visit, but this time it was closer to Christmas than the others.

If one can peel away the religious trappings and the huge stone church building that occupy the traditional site of the birthplace of Christ, he can begin to let the significance of the birth date of Christ seep into his consciousness. It makes no difference whether or not the cave that is below the building is the exact spot of the birth. It makes no difference that Dec. 25 may not be the exact date of Christ's birth. He was born in Bethlehem, and the city stands today as a testimony of the life of the Savior. The groto that is the traditional site of the birth is a quiet place where there are no burdensome religious ornaments or souvenir shops. One can meditate and let scriptural references pertaining to the birth abide in those thoughts.

In Micah 5:2, "But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting."

Matthew 2:3-6, "When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophets, And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel."

John's classic statement in 1:1 and 2, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God," precedes his great declaration of verse 14, "And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth."

This one event in this little town changed the course of human history. The Jewish people don't use Before Christ and In the Year of our Lord to

designate the division in the calendar that Christ's birth occasioned. But even they recognize that birth and designate the division in the calendar by using Before the Common Era and The Common Era.

So history for all the world stopped and started over again with the birth of Christ. Even this, however, is relatively unimportant. Two factors must be acknowledged. One is that He was born. The world acknowledges this. The other is that He was God Himself who entered history at that point to become the sacrificial lamb that had been the center of Jewish belief and worship for centuries. This fact is acknowledged by only a small portion of the world.

One high-placed Jewish official told me, "You and I believe in the same Messiah. You believe He has come and will come again. We believe He is yet to come. Let's wait until He comes and see who He is."

But we can't wait. That has been our problem through the ages. We've waited. The world must hear, and we must try to get the Word to everyone

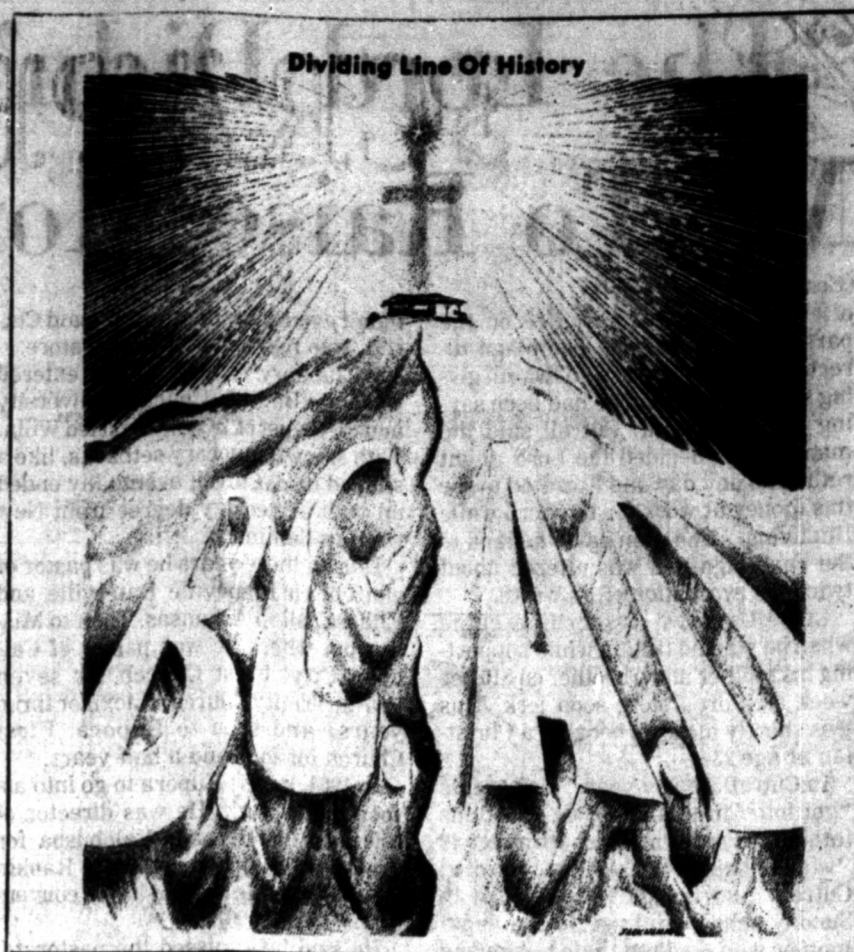
by the end of the century. Who knows how much longer we will have. Millions of the people who need to hear do not have that long.

We don't have to buttonhole everyone who comes down the street and insist that he listen. But he must know that we believe.

It's the Christmas season. Let's listen to the beautiful carols and reflect on His birth and worship Him. Let's gather with our families when we can and enjoy the closeness of that highly important human institution.

But we must also work to carry to the world the message of His birth, life, death, and resurrection. Southern Baptists have devised ways so that those of us who stay at home can very easily finance the work of those who will go. All we have to do at home is give our money. Let's give, and let's pray.

The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering is half of the Foreign Mission Board's budget. The other half comes from the Cooperative Program. The command to "Go ye" means that we must support both. Let's not wait.



## Faces And Places

By Anne Washburn McWilliams

### Christmas at Petah-Tikva

For Doris Posey of Route 6, Yazoo City, life began at 51—that is, life as a volunteer in the Mission Service Corps. Last year she went to Switzerland for six months. Now she's in Israel.

Mrs. Posey, a widow with four children (in Yazoo City and West Point) and six grandchildren, had read in the Baptist Record and in missions magazines about volunteer mission work, and had heard about it at her church, Center Ridge, where Al Homer is pastor.

She told the Foreign Mission Board she wanted to serve and that she had three talents to offer—"I can cook and wash and sew."

First she traveled to Switzerland's mountains near Zurich; to cook at the Baptist seminary at Ruschlikon. That was a happy experience, so on October 1 of this year she arrived in Israel, to begin a year as cook for the Baptist Village, a conference center in Central Sharon. Her transportation and money for incidental expenses came from undesignated Mission Service Corps gifts. Her room and board and local transportation are provided by the Village.

Last Thursday morning I called Mrs. Posey to ask how she planned to celebrate Christmas in Israel. I dialed the international access code, the country code, the city routing code, and the local telephone number—which stretched into quite a few digits: 01-972-3-911-965.

It was almost 9:30 a.m. when I called, and she said it was 5:30 p.m. in Petah-Tikva. She had begun preparations for the regular Thursday evening staff dinner. However, she could talk for her two volunteer helpers, a girl from Italy and a girl from Germany, (who wash dishes and assist in cleanup) could watch to see that nothing burned.

When conferences are in session, Mrs. Posey has more cooking to do, of course, but for Christmas time no conference was scheduled.

"I plan the menus, do the cooking—everything but the shopping," she said.

Will there be guests at the Village during the holidays?

Seven missionaries from Spain will be in and out during the week.

What will you do on Christmas Day?

The staff is planning a late afternoon dinner. I told them I wouldn't cook on Christmas Day! Everybody will bring something. I ordered a ham, but I might not get it, for they are hard to find. It might have to be bought in Jerusalem. Then we'll have a little party that night and exchange gifts.

How many are on the staff?

Three missionary families, plus a volunteer couple and five journeymen. You won't have turkey?

Actually, yes. But that will come the weekend after Christmas. You know the Baptist Village used to be an orphanage and many of those who lived here as children will return the weekend after Christmas for a reunion. Then I will cook a traditional Christmas dinner, much like I would cook in Mississippi, and we'll have turkey. And plenty of fresh fruit is available for any meal.

Why don't you do the shopping yourself?

I can drive, and I could borrow a car, but I'd rather not drive, with all the wild driving I see in this town! Also I only speak English, and in many shops I could not ask for the groceries I need. Do you go about much by bus?

No, I can't tell the Israeli drivers where I want to go, if they can't speak English. But the missionaries and others here have been very nice to me. They take me wherever I ask to go. It is just easier for someone else to do the grocery shopping.

How are your living accommodations?

Oh, fine. I have a comfortable bedroom and bath near the kitchen.

Have you had a chance to meet many of the nationals?

Not many. Since I'm usually busy, I stay at the Village much of the time. It is a small country, though, and I have visited Jerusalem, Nazareth, Bethlehem, and Tel-Aviv.

Where will you be going to church at Christmas time?

At the Baptist church here at the Village.

And you haven't regretted your decision to become a volunteer?

No! I'm glad I came and am really happy here, doing what I know how to do, to help the missionaries.

Merry Christmas, Mrs. Posey!

Thank you, and merry Christmas to you.

lies? Consider Col. 3:9 "Lie not one to another."

When we tell our children of Santa and all his glory, we support not one but a multitude of lies.

Is the fabled Santa an insult to Jesus Christ? Or is it an insult to God's intelligence?

Do we deal with the problem or pass it on to the next generations, as we received it, unchanged?

Do our pastors, who boast that they preach the true gospel, preach on this matter or not? If not, how shall we answer Christ when we shall appear before the judgment seat of Christ? II Cor. 5:10.

Remember Christ first, have joy concerning the celebration of Christmas. I John 5:21 says it best: "Little children keep yourselves from idols."

Amen

William R. Frederick

Amory

Truly there is nothing religious about Santa Claus, and perhaps it is unfortunate that this concept would be identified with such a religious observance as Christmas. Many great Christian leaders, however, without doubt were believers in Santa Claus in their early years. You are correct. There is no connection between Santa Claus and the religious observance, and the two should be kept separate. — Editor

### The Salt Treaty

Editor: With reference to letters to the editor by Alice E. Davis, Mendenhall, and Mrs. J. C. Morris, Meridian, in response to the article recently about

The Salt II treaty, I have the film "The Salt Syndrome," a 26-minute 16mm color documentary produced by American Security Council Education Foundation for the Coalition for Peace through Strength in which we hear from experts like Gov. William P. Clements, Jr. former deputy secretary of defense; Hon. J. William Mendenhall, former secretary of the navy; Adm. Thomas Moorer, USN, (Ret) former chairman joint chiefs of staff; and others.

This will answer questions from Mrs. Davis and Mrs. Morris and I will be glad to show the film to all groups and individuals interested to see it. Broadus S. Compere, Lt., USN, Retired Veteran of Pearl Harbor, Normandy WW II. Box 364 Florence, MS 39073 (601) 939-5045

### Harvest of Souls

Editor: Thanks for the spiritual strength and guidance which The Baptist Record has provided me for so many years. You and your staff are doing a fine job.

I am Outreach Director at Siloam Baptist Church. As Jesus told us many years ago, the harvest of lost souls is waiting for us to gather and tell the story of Him.

I feel that all of us could be used of God more on the home front, and through increased giving to Lottie Moon offering.

Clark Williams  
West Point

### Part two of two parts . . .

## The birth of Jesus in its historical setting

By J. B. Fowler Jr.

A battle between Antony and Octavian was inevitable. At Cleopatra's urging, Antony placed all of his fortunes on a sea battle in spite of the fact that his fleet was inferior to Octavian's. Antony's final battle took place off the coast of Greece on September 2, 31 B. C. Cleopatra had contributed sixty ships to the battle and sailed out in one of them to be near Antony during the fighting. When things began to turn sour for Antony, she summoned her ships and fled. Antony watched her go, but not for long. He promptly turned his ships from the battle, and sailed to overtake her. Octavian was the victor.

Antony and Cleopatra went back to Alexandria, knowing that their days were few. Octavian was not far behind. He soon arrived with his legions. Antony thought to salvage the impossible situation by challenging Octavian to a personal duel, but Octavian was too shrewd to accept his challenge.

Antony then received word that Cleopatra had committed suicide, but the report was false. The truth, however, arrived too late to save Antony. He had fallen on his sword. He was carried into Cleopatra's presence where shortly afterward he died in her arms. A love affair that had rocked the world was over.

### Relied on Charm

Octavian and his army had marched to the doors of Alexandria. He was only thirty-three and Cleopatra was thirty-nine. Still, however, she relied on her charm and beauty which had won the hearts of both Julius Caesar and Mark Antony. But her beauty was impotent against the cold virtue of Octavian. He not only refused her advances, but promptly told her that he intended to add Egypt to the Roman Empire and to take her to Rome in chains.

This was too much for Cleopatra. She had two asps, the venomous adder of Egypt, smuggled into her in a basket of figs. She allowed one of the reptiles to bite her bosom and in a few minutes the most dazzling of all Queens lay a

lifeless corpse. The year was 30 B.C., and in less than twenty-five years Jesus would be born not many miles away, in a place called Bethlehem.

Octavian, the one-time co-ruler with Mark Antony of the Roman Empire, was now the sole ruler of the Mediterranean world. Soon he would adopt the title, Augustus. He would be the first emperor to wear that title. We know him as Caesar Augustus. His name appears one time in the New Testament, in Luke 2:1, where Luke writes: "And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed."

### Undisputed Ruler

Caesar Augustus was the undisputed ruler of the Roman world for forty-one years. In the year, A. D. 6, Cyrenius (Quirinius) was sent from Rome to be the first Procurator of Judea. It is known from historical documents that he took a census of that area between A. D. 7 and 6, but this can not be the one referred to by Luke because by that time Jesus was more than ten years old. But, according to the Biblical narrative, Caesar Augustus took the census when Cyrenius was governor of Syria, for Luke says that in Luke 2:1-3: "And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria. And all went to be taxed, everyone into his own city."

"For a long time it seemed as though St. Luke had made a mistake. It was only when a fragment of a Roman inscription was discovered at Antioch that the surprising fact emerged that Quirinius had been in Syria once before on a mission from the Emperor Augustus . . ." (and) Quirinius established his seat of government as well as his headquarters in Syria between 10 and 7 B.C."

The census which was ordered by Caesar Augustus was for two reasons: First it was used to call men up for military service and second, for taxation purposes. This was its purpose for being taken in Palestine, during the days of Joseph and Mary.

This census was taken in the empire every fourteenth year. "Rome would never have been able on the strength of its own resources to afford the luxury of its much admired magnificent buildings and sporting grounds, its extravagant way of living, or its expensive system of administering its empire." The Roman emperors like to guarantee their people "bread and circuses"—at no cost to the citizens. And this was the way they did it.

When the decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the Roman world should be enrolled in the census, Joseph and Mary were living in Nazareth of Galilee. But the Scriptures had plainly foretold, seven hundred years earlier, in Micah 5:2, that the Messiah should be born in Bethlehem of Judah. How was this to be accomplished that the Scriptures might be fulfilled?

### Descendants of David

Both Mary and Joseph were descendants of David. David was from the tribe of Judah and Bethlehem was his hometown. According to the Jewish mode of registration in a census, the people would enroll by tribes or clans, at the place where the ancestral records were kept. Since Joseph and Mary had descended from David of the tribe of Judah, they would make the journey to Bethlehem and there be counted. They were still not yet "husband and wife," they were only betrothed or engaged, as the Scriptures plainly declare. But she was pregnant, and the angel had explained to Joseph the reason. She shall accompany him, as though she were his wife, and the two of them shall put down their names in Bethlehem as descendants of David.

And now the Scripture is fulfilled. They are in Bethlehem. And the great drama of the ages is ready to unfold: "And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own

city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David.) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her first-born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, and lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child." (Luke 2:1-17)

J. B. Fowler Jr. is pastor of First Baptist Church, McComb.

## Letters To The Editor

### Cutrell Retirement

Editor: I have just read in my good old Baptist Record of Rev. Clarence Cutrell's retirement from the Department of Stewardship. As I read of the tributes by our "state greats," his family, friends and present associates—all well-deserved, I'm sure—memories came surging over me, and I felt that one group had been left out. So, this letter represents those of us who have called Bro. Clarence "Pastor."

Some of the more important things I remember about him include his fine, inspired preaching. He was and is one of the best Bible preachers I have ever known. But more than his messages from the pulpit were the messages of dignity, kindness and loving impartiality to old and young which he taught by his life. He didn't always say "I love you," he just loved you!

I remember Bro. Cutrell's ministry to our family. Once while Mrs. Cutrell and I visited in the house, Bro. Cutrell counseled with my seven-year old twins as the three of them played ball in the back yard. He confirmed their salvation experience and led them to understand baptism and church

membership. I remember as he baptized the twins, that he forgot as he was baptizing my little girl and said "I baptize you, my daughter. . . ." It warms our hearts to this day.

I remember Bro. Cutrell's family. Willa never put herself first. Always her church, her family and others came first. What good fellowship we had as we shared work in WMU, Training Union, and especially work with young people. As children, both Jan and Jimmy were delightful and talented. It was a particular joy to me to be their "Aunt Evelyn" as long as they were here, and even today when we chance to meet, I am pleased with their successes and still follow their lives with interest and prayers.

So, I add my love and thanks to one of my favorite pastors and his family and my very best wishes for a marvelous, productive "retirement." Margaret Evelyn (Whiddon) Heise, Trinity Baptist Church, Biloxi

### Santa Claus In Christmas

Editor: The Christmas season is upon us again—a day set aside by Christians to celebrate the birth of our Lord and

Saviour.

People are buying gifts to show love and appreciation to others. This is good. They are also spending much time and small fortunes decorating their homes, which is good as long as it lends itself to Christian virtue.

I would like to appeal to the Christians and pastors that they consider the gospel concerning this holiday, and that they begin to preach and faint not at the truth of this matter. I am distressed at the number of Christians who, in spite of the Bible, still teach their children to reverence Santa Claus. Having Christ on the one hand and a pagan god on the other can only be confusing to a small child.

Why call Santa a pagan god? Consider the reverence and attention as opposed to that of Christ these days. Consider the claims to supernatural power. Compare these to all the pagan and Greek gods throughout all history. They teach their children to pray to their god, and we teach ours to write to Santa. We attempt to build their faith in "ole Santa" by trying to provide the children with answers to their requests.

What harm is there in a little "white lie"? When did God color code Satan's

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# SCRAPBOOK



The Adoration Of The Magi

Woodcut by Albrecht Durer (German, 1471-1528) — RELIGIOUS NEWS SERVICE  
PHOTO, Courtesy Metropolitan Museum of Art.

## Mary's Lullaby

Lullaby and rest, Oh, precious one.  
Little boy Jesus, my darling son.  
Great Jehovah, help me to be  
The mother thou wouldst have of me.

Oh! that I could keep thee safe with me  
But thy Father has plans for thy destiny.  
Sleep, little baby, my precious son.  
Slumber and sleep, Oh! Holy One.

I'll love and protect thee while so small  
Sweet be thy slumber, the Savior of all.  
Lullaby and rest, my beautiful son.  
Oh! King of Heaven and Earth, Thou holy one.

—Cleone W. Langley

## Love, The Greatest Gift

Christmas morning o'er the earth —  
I think of God's own son  
The greatest gift that God could give  
He gave for every one.

May we not always give selfishly,  
Expecting a gift in return,  
But give to those who need it —  
(What a wonderful lesson to learn.)

Let us not leave love out —  
'Tis the greatest gift we can give.  
May we keep Christmas love in  
our hearts —  
As long as we shall live.

—Madge Gill  
Columbia

## A Christmas Poem

One winter night, long ago  
No one knows just when,  
A little boy was born  
Into this world of sin.

He was born of a virgin, Mary  
In a stable, bare and cold  
But all this was necessary  
If his mission was to unfold.

This child was our Savior, Jesus  
Who came to set us free.  
He came to die for us  
And heal our misery.

He was with us for 33 years  
For 30 He walked among men  
He experienced many temptations  
But never once gave in.

One day they placed upon His head,  
A crown of thorns  
And nailed Him on a rugged tree  
And yelled at Him with scorn.

He died that day upon the cross  
To save us from our sin.  
He lives in our hearts forevermore  
If we only invite Him in.

—Tracey Morris, age 14  
Improve Church, Columbia

## The Best Christmas Gift

Garland your front door  
with greenery,  
hang a wreath  
of cedar,  
pine,  
and yucca boughs.  
decorate the tree  
with colored lights,  
shiny ornaments;  
bake some spicy fruit cakes,  
glaze them white;  
take time to share  
your blessings  
this special season  
with the less fortunate.

Wrap your presents  
in silver and gold aluminum foil,  
light the tall,  
red candles,  
watch as they glow.  
Listen to carols,  
hear a choir sing "Silent Night,"  
tell everyone  
about Jesus  
who was born  
that Holy Night.

Praise God with the music  
of lasting love and peace  
because He gave us  
the last Christmas gift  
when the Word was made flesh  
and the angels sang.  
"Glory to God in the highest,  
and on the earth,  
peace, good  
will to men."

—Eunice Barnes  
Pascagoula

## Joy To The World

O, capture the magic of Christmas  
With music soft and low,  
Outside the all-white stillness  
Inside the hearth's warm glow.  
The tree with lights a-glistening  
And friends who come and go.

Oh, catch again the message  
'Tis needed now as when  
'Twas sent from Heaven, blessed,  
Into a world of sin:  
The tidings to the Shepherds  
Of Peace, Goodwill to men.

—Valerie Howell  
Ripley



## God Sent The Birds

Hasten to your mailbox and find  
The gifts in store for you!  
At this time of the year  
The postman has a load  
From friends and next-of-kin.

The ones that catch my eyes are not  
Those wrapped and tied and sent postpaid.  
Oft times they're unwanted.  
Wrong size, wrong color or broken.  
And far too expensive.

Now look again and see  
The cardinals all dressed in red.  
They are the ones I'd like the best!  
The gifts were sent by folks like me.  
But God guided the birds your way

To brighten and to cheer your day.  
Reminding you that He still cares  
Not only for the birds of red  
But mocking birds as well.  
And even more, much more, for you.

At this Christmas season  
Please look beyond the birds and see  
God's Son at Bethlehem.  
Then go with Him to Calvary  
His Gift awaits you there!

—Ruby Singley  
Columbia

## A Short Sermon

Two pastor's wives sat mending their husband's pants. One of them said to the other, "My poor John, he is so discouraged in his church work. He said just the other day he was considering resigning. It seems that nothing goes right for him."

The other replied, "Why, my husband is saying just the opposite. He is so enthused, it seems like the Lord is closer to him than ever before."

A hushed silence fell as they continued to mend the trousers: one patching the KNEES and the other the SEAT.

—"The Open Circuit"

## The Approach

How should we approach Christmas? Surely with the desire to enter into the joy and gaiety of children: with the desire to be at peace with all men; with a high resolve to forgive all those who have injured us; with an equal determination to lift our own lives to a higher level. — Martin Burrell.

# Come To Your Knees, America

By Gail Foster  
Hattiesburg

For the past month we in our church have been discussing Bold Missions. We as Christians are challenged to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ throughout entire world by the year 2000. For us in a civilized country it is hard to comprehend that there are literally millions of people on this earth who do not know Jesus.

These past weeks have been trying for America. The hostages being held in Iran has touched the hearts of all of us. For myself, when I first heard of this incident I became concerned. I worried a little, and I prayed a little. Then I heard the statement Khomeini made calling us a satanic country. At this point it became personal.

True, there are many things wrong in America. As the mother of three small children, I have been concerned the past several years with the problems we all face. Drugs, especially, trouble me. I prayed and asked God to help us with this problem and many more we have ahead of us.

Yes, there is a lot wrong in America but one thing she is not — she is not satanic: America always has been and still is today one nation under God. Our President, I believe, is a Christian man; but he does not control America. God does.

I had listened through all of this ordeal to the emphasis placed on military power. What about God power?

Our President called on us to pray. And we have, but not enough.

Americans are being asked to join hands and be strong and patient. We are doing this. We see our fellow countrymen joining together in this time of crisis. Why is it that we must face tragedy to feel the strength and closeness and the necessity of God?

God promises us in II Chronicles 7:14 that "If my people which are called by my name shall humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land." I believe with all my heart that if America turned totally to God for assistance, we could find a peaceful solution to our problem in Iran and to all future problems as well.

Has anyone considered the possibility of the President of the United States coming to his knees publicly? I am sure he has privately. It must be such a heavy burden to carry the troubles of the country on one's shoulder.

I realize that it is almost an impossibility, but wouldn't it be impressive to bring the television cameras inside the walls of our homes and churches? Let us witness to the world that America is strongest when she is on her knees in prayer. We are taught that all things work to the good of the Lord for those that trust Him.

Has anyone considered the good that can come of this situation in Iran? Wouldn't it be challenging for these Iranian people to be faced with a nation of people whose lips bear the name of Jesus? Perhaps God has sent us this situation to see how we will use it.

Talking about Bold Missions. Wouldn't this be the ultimate to witness to our enemies?

ness to our enemies? The mobs and millions of anti-Americans in Iran will burn our flags, burn our buildings, and hurt our people; but if we unite in prayer together as a nation we can say to the millions that the true strength of America lies not in her weapons but in her God.

Come to your knees, America. It is time that we humbled ourselves, for only God can take a hurtful act and turn it into good.

As Christmas draws near we must not shrug off our responsibility to our

people in Iran. It just as easily could have been us over there. Our main responsibility is to remember the hostages daily in prayer and ask God to return them safely to us.

Let us not be so caught up in our tinsel and glitter that we forget some of our very own. What a shame it would be to let this incident slip through our fingers. We must show the world that we are a nation of purpose and what a better time to do it than at Christmas. What a wonderful birthday present for our Lord.

## From My Back Steps

That man, a musician, was always inviting home some guy he met who could string a tune. This one sang like an angel fallen too soon from a big name band. Undernourished, tall, Johnny bent double over his guitar and I saw the glitter of what he was, veiled by alcohol. "Let's call the bum a taxi," I suggested in a hiss, "so we can go on" to wherever I was going on Christmas Eve in my rose velvet dress. But of course we drove him home. "Come in," swaggered Johnny, leaning, "and meet my wife." She was a doll, tearful, apologetic for his sin of depressing that fine brain. "We need him." Soon a coffee cup crashed and slopped on carpet, and turning to strangers the girl Heather begged: "Help me get him to bed. Don't leave him behind or he'll go out on the street and be picked up. Present law punishes the sick, and we'll be fined — the kids and me." "He won't go anywhere tonight," said my strong man, and taking sandwich and milk he noisily led Johnny to the bedroom. They sang and sang all the holiday songs. We made popcorn and hot chocolate and lit sparklers, and looked for the Christmas star outside, and far over Houston some church bells rang. "I always saw my star of Bethlehem," I told the children "from my back steps in the country in Mississippi," and they found their star, and we returned to the den. The two-year-old climbed into my lap. I was overwhelmed, and I rocked him like a treasure until he slept, and the baby slept, and the lovely girl, five, crept to bed and closed blue eyes, anticipating Santa Claus. Heather was already wistfully putting toys under the tree and wrapping gifts. "Johnny works in the ship yard. It's only the holidays and Saturday nights he ruins for me." Then she said firmly, "He'll come to know Jesus some day and be healed. The sickness will all go away."

—Violet Tackett

# Land Made Available For Work In Senegal

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — "A real breakthrough" has been made in a new area of Baptist work in Senegal, says John E. Mills, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's secretary for West Africa.

The local government has sold missionaries nearly an acre of land for a chapel and missionary residence. Mills says it is unusual in Senegal, as in many other Muslim countries, for any non-Muslim group, especially evangelicals, to be permitted to buy land.

The parcel is in the Casamance region south of the Gambia River. The Ken G. Robertsons moved there in

1968, settling in Bignona where the construction is to take place. Mills says he hopes construction funds for the house and chapel will come from this year's Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions.

Most of the Southern Baptist witness in Senegal previously centered on urban approaches, mostly in Dakar, the capital. A Baptist center has also begun operation in Pikine.

Casamance is a largely agricultural area where tribal religious customs remain and where Islam is not as strong as in northern areas.

# Names In The News . . .

Charles L. McKay, former Mississippi pastor, will be married to Glenda Bennett at Temple Baptist Church, Redlands, Calif., on Dec. 30 at 3 p.m.

John and Nell Smith, missionaries to Indonesia, are on an assignment in Norway (address: North Sea Baptist Church, Bergjelsandsgata 24, 4000 Stavanger, Norway). Both are natives of Brookhaven.

Frank Gunn, pastor of First Church, Biloxi, was guest speaker in chapel at New Orleans Seminary in November. In his sermon, he challenged students to be committed to God's order for life's experiences. Gunn is a trustee of the seminary and is the newly elected Campaign Chairman for Mississippi NOBTS alumni.

Edward L. Byrd, native of Mount Olive, Miss., is beginning a "second retirement" and will be supplying pulpits and serving in interim pastorates.

When Byrd retired 2½ years ago from the pastorate of First Church, Florence, S. C. after being there for 27 years, he was invited to Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky. as a visiting-senior professor. He concludes his work at the seminary Dec. 21, and he and Mrs. Byrd, the former Nora Brown, will return to their home in South Carolina.

He served First Church, Holly Springs, Miss., and Highland Church, Meridian, before going to South Carolina. His father, the late J. E. Byrd, was state Sunday School director of Mississippi for 35 years.

Todd Bowen, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Bowen of Okolona, was ordained to the gospel ministry on Nov. 25, by First Church, Okolona. He is a third-year student at Blue Mountain College and plans to attend New Orleans Seminary. He is married to the former Joni Angeletti of West Memphis, Ark. He has begun his new pastoral duties at the Whittentown church in Ripley.

Those participating in the ordination service included: Wayne Moore, moderator (chairman of deacons at First Church, Okolona); Rufus Sullivan, Todd's grandfather, who led the invocation; Joe Bowen, Todd's father, who led the ordination prayer; Thomas Hinson, pastor of First Church, West Memphis, Ark., who preached the sermon; and James Travis of Blue Mountain College, who delivered the charge to the church. James Parker, pastor of First Church, presented Todd an ordination certificate and a check to use in purchasing a Bible of his choice.

Danny Lafferty, evangelist of Ocean Springs, recently returned from a twelve day trip to Pennsylvania where he preached in three Southern Baptist Convention mission churches. He reports that 25 professions of faith were made. He plans to return for an eight day city-wide crusade June 1-8, 1980, in Berwick, Pa., being directed by Pastor Ron Winkle of the Berwick Baptist Chapel. This will be his third trip to northeast Pennsylvania since entering full-time evangelism in January of this year. On this last trip Lafferty preached at Berwick, Wilkes-Barre, and Scranton.

J. Altus Newell, pastor of Louisville, Kentucky's St. Matthews Church, was elected first vice president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, during its recent annual meeting at Walnut Street Church, Louisville. Newell was born in Meridian. He earned a B.A. degree with High Honors at Mississippi College in 1966. He was a Rotary Scholar at the University of Bonn in West Germany, 1967-68. He received from the Southern Seminary the Master of Divinity and Doctor of Philosophy degrees. While at Mississippi College, Newell was Student body president, and state B.S.U. president. His wife, Diane, is a native of Louisiana. The Newells have three children. Since 1963, Newell has been pastor of churches in Mississippi and Kentucky.

Newell was a Rotary Scholar at the University of Bonn in West Germany, 1967-68. He received from the Southern Seminary the Master of Divinity and Doctor of Philosophy degrees. While at Mississippi College, Newell was Student body president, and state B.S.U. president. His wife, Diane, is a native of Louisiana. The Newells have three children. Since 1963, Newell has been pastor of churches in Mississippi and Kentucky.

# BMC Professor Writes History Of Lowrey Memorial Church

By Phyllis Harper  
The hundred years of history in W. Carey Hearn's newly published book about Lowrey Memorial Baptist Church of Blue Mountain includes some Baptist history from throughout the state. It also interweaves some of the history of Blue Mountain College and of the founding Lowrey family.

Hearn, professor of history at Blue Mountain College, wrote Lowrey Memorial Baptist Church — The First Hundred Years as a non-profit venture. The book was published by the church as part of its centennial celebration during 1979.

Written in narrative style, the 220-page book includes a number of old pictures. Chapters include one on the 23 ministers who have served the church, one on donors to the church, one on the organization and physical growth, a chapter on revivals, as well as chapters on other subjects.

"The Baptist Young People's Encampment met at the church from 1906 to 1922," said Hearn, "and it attracted Baptists from all over the state."

The church had excellent records, including 100 years of church minutes, said Hearn, a Methodist who has taught at BMC for 10 years. He borrowed from the Baptist Historical Society in Clinton and read copies of 100 years of The Baptist Record.

He also went through 100 years of the Ripley newspaper, then interviewed former pastors and a number of church members.

Lowrey Memorial concluded its centennial celebration with an autograph party for Hearn 2 to 4 p.m., Dec. 16 in the Newcombe Room of the church. Former pastor Clifford J. Smyly, now of Columbia, conducted the 11 a.m. services.

Copies of the history were sold at the autograph party for \$12.50. They may be ordered and shipped by mail for \$14 by writing to: Dr. W. Harold Fisher, Lowrey Memorial Church Clerk, Blue Mountain College, Blue Mountain, Ms. 38610.

where his father is pastor. Paul Vandercook, director of the Seamen's Ministry, states, "Perhaps one day we will have a similar position filled in Pascagoula but at the present we are still looking for a volunteer. Maybe the volunteer we are looking for is a reader of the Record."

as help volunteer teams visit aboard ships. He will open the Gulfport center four days a week and will visit with volunteer team captains, seeing that every ship in port is contacted.

The new assistant is a member of Primera Iglesia Bautista de Biloxi

# Gulf Coast Seamen's Work Calls Assistant; Pascagoula Center Looking For A Volunteer

Eliu Camacho-Rodriguez has been named by the Gulf Coast Association as an assistant in the Seamen's ministry, rather than by the Jackson Association, as reported in the Dec. 6 Baptist Record. He will oversee daily maintenance and operation of the Seamen's Center at Gulfport, as well

as help volunteer teams visit aboard ships. He will open the Gulfport center four days a week and will visit with volunteer team captains, seeing that every ship in port is contacted.

The new assistant is a member of Primera Iglesia Bautista de Biloxi



CHERYL ANNE GOULD, (left) daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James L. Gould of McComb, has been chosen to receive the highest scholarship award available to a freshman woman at Mississippi College. The Suzanne Nobles Memorial Scholarship was established in memory of the teenage daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Lewis Nobles, president (right) and first lady of the college. An honor graduate of McComb High School, she received band and piano awards and the English II award in high school. At Mississippi College, she is a member of the marching band. Her probable major is accounting. Her home church is North McComb Baptist.

Those participating in the ordination service included: Wayne Moore, moderator (chairman of deacons at First Church, Okolona); Rufus Sullivan, Todd's grandfather, who led the invocation; Joe Bowen, Todd's father, who led the ordination prayer; Thomas Hinson, pastor of First Church, West Memphis, Ark., who preached the sermon; and James Travis of Blue Mountain College, who delivered the charge to the church. James Parker, pastor of First Church, presented Todd an ordination certificate and a check to use in purchasing a Bible of his choice.

First Church, Lambert, in Quitman Association held its monthly churchwide fellowship dinner. At that time the pastor and his wife, Wayne and Dot Long, were given special recognition for services to the church over the past eight years. A love offering in the form of a money tree was presented by the chairman of deacons, Winfred Reid.

# Just For The Record . . .



STRAYHORN CHURCH, Tate County, children, ages 3-12, pantomimed the Christmas story Dec. 20, 1978. Ronny Smith and Linda Hankins were narrators. The play was directed by Myrna Johnson Brown. Cecil Cole is the pastor.



ACTEENS OF BELLE FOUNTAIN CHURCH, OCEAN SPRINGS, were honored in a coronation service on the theme, "Jewels in His Crown." Mrs. Kay Frances, Acteens leader, and C. H. Stone, Jr., pastor, presented the awards. Left to right are: Helen Fountain, Queen-with-a-Scepter; Stephanie Dyess, Queen-with-a-Scepter; Kim Couch, Queen; Jan Schmelling, Queen; and Terri Embry, Queen.



1979-80 members of ACTS TOO, the creative worship team of the Baptist Student Union at Mississippi State University are (front row, left to right): Patricia Benton, Jackson; Becky Ratliff, Jackson; Nancy Potts, Starkville; Kent Monroe, Laurel; Judy McNeill, Memphis, Tennessee; Kristi Smith, Kosciusko; (back row) Rod Sparkman, DeKalb; Lane Frazier, Jackson; David Byrd, Yazoo City; and Jim Shoff, Picayune.

Sardis Church, Copiah County, held a recognition service recently for Acteens and Girls in Action. Acteens: Hayley Freeman — Queen-with-Scepter; Sharon McCordle — Queen-with Scepter; Karen Curtis — Queen Regent; Hope Freeman — Queen Regent. This is the first time in the history of the church that an Acteen has become Queen Regent. GA's receiving recognition were Kim Kitchens — Awards collar and Adventure 1 badge; Amy Heatherly — Awards collar and Adventure 2 badge. Mrs. Dorothy Jasper is Acteens leader. Mrs. Merlene Jolly is GA leader. Lamar Jolly is pastor.

Arbor Grove Church, Houston, now owns a blue and white church bus. There had been much talk about the need for a bus for many years. Some members decided they needed to quit talking and start acting, so they got together, made an appeal to the church members and collected enough money to pay for a bus and provide for its painting. This was all done through special gifts. Then on Oct. 28, during the morning service, the pastor, Joe Arnold was presented the title by T. O. Martin, chairman of Deacons. The bus was donated debt-free to the church for the service of the Lord.

Girls in Action from Second Church, Indianola attended "Christmas Sparkles" at the Children's Village in Jackson on Dec. 7. Girls who attended were Karen Steelman, Cindy Steelman, Susan Boyer, Mary Anne Cooper, Patti Bennett, Alicia Hathcock, Angela Hathcock, Leslie Baker, Shannon Fikes, Tina Jefferies, Christy Herbison, and Sharon Doshier. Adults who went along included Mrs. Sandra Boyer, Melody Bigbee, Virginia Ochoa, and Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Farish. The fare for the trip was a can of food for a needy family at Christmas. Billy Joe Beckett is the church's new pastor.

Calvary Church, Meridian, Otis Seal, pastor, has obtained the fourth octave of a set of handbells. The bells are made by Schulerich Carillons, Inc. in Pennsylvania. Allen Clearman, his two children, Sharon and Allen, Jr. have contributed toward the purchase of the handbells as a living memorial to Allen's late wife, Clara Gene, who was a public school teacher in Meridian. An anonymous donor contributed \$300 that will be used to buy material for the preservation of the bells. Mrs. Clearman died Jan. 28, 1978.

## The Trilogy Will Present Concert At Puckett

The Trilogy of Puckett Church will present a Christmas concert, "Rejoice with Exceeding Great Joy," on Friday, Dec. 21, at 7 p.m. at the Puckett Church.

Trio members are Sandra Calhoun, Hilda Means, and Betty Cole. The accompanist will be Virginia Dukes.

## Off the Record

A tightwad went into a gift shop to find an inexpensive Christmas present for a friend, but he found everything very expensive until he spotted a vase that had been broken. He purchased it for practically nothing and asked the store to send it. He wanted the friend to think it was broken in transit.

A week later he received a thank you note. It read, "Many thanks for the vase; it was nice of you to wrap each piece separately."

A minister's small daughter was watching her father prepare his Christmas message. "Daddy, does God tell you what to say?" she asked. "Of course, honey," he smiled. "Why do you ask?" "I was wondering why you scratch out so much He tells you to say," she replied. — Van Winkle "Midweek Reminder."

## Devotional His Name Is Wonderful

By James L. Hefflin, Pastor, First, Greenville

Isaiah 9:6

Handel's "Messiah" is probably the world's most famous musical composition. It certainly is one of the most moving. Who can hear the incomparable "Hallelujah Chorus" and not feel his heart swell? Now that the Christmas season has come again, we will be hearing this beautiful music repeatedly. When you hear the "Messiah," reflect on the good news contained in the words too: "His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."

Some translators tell us "Wonderful, Counselor" should read: "Wonder of a Counselor" or "Wonderful Counselor." Regardless of how one reads these particular words, their message is the same. Jesus is both — Wonderful and Wonderful Counselor. With his list of magnificent names to be given the one to come, Isaiah stressed that the child would have a name above every name. He would establish a kingdom that would have no end.

The Israelites placed great stock in names. Often a child was given a name which would reflect something about his character or something of the parents' hope for the child. For example, the name "Joshua" means "deliverer." Joshua delivered the Israelites into the land of promise. The New Testament name for "deliverer" is "Jesus." The parallel is obvious.

When Isaiah foretold the coming of our Lord, he gave several names to speak of His character. That was the prophet's way of emphasizing the Messiah's superiority. He would be the God of might. He would be the eternal Father. He would bring peace and guarantee peace among men. At the very heart of the verse are the words: "His name shall be called . . . Wonderful."

He will do wonderful things. His very birth will be an occasion for amazement. His life will create no small stir. Because of Him the most wonderful news man has ever heard will be proclaimed throughout all the earth. Only when individuals know Him who is the Prince of Peace will mankind ever know permanent peace. This is the message we Christians have to tell the world at Christmas.

May this Christmas season be one of great happiness for you and your family. Remember, there is a name above every name — the name of Jesus. He is Wonderful. He accomplishes the wonder of wonders for everyone who believes on Him. Our world needs to hear His name.

## Staff Changes

Jimmy R. Smith has accepted the pastorate of Okolona Church, Rt. 1, Town Creek, Ala. He, his wife Julia, and daughter Shannon have moved to the new field of service. For the past three years Smith was associate pastor and minister of education at First Church, West Point, Joel Haire, pastor.



Smith

Billy Joe Beckett, will begin a new pastorate Jan. 1, 1980 at Second Church, Indianola. He was formerly pastor at Duncan.

J. B. Miller of First Church, Carthage, has resigned in order to accept the pastorate of First Church, Jelton, Tenn. He will move Dec. 28 and begin his new duties Jan. 1.

Tommy Jones has assumed the pastorate of the Hebron Church, Lauderdale County. He moved there from the

Harmony Church, Winston County, where he was pastor for seven years and nine months. His new address is Rt. 6, Box 279, Meridian, MS 39301.

James Beck has resigned as pastor of Calvary Church, Lamar Association, to accept the pastorate of First Church, Soso. He is a graduate of William Carey College and New Orleans Seminary. He is married to the former Marcia Pugh. The Becks and their three children, Kris, Stacy, and Jamie, may be addressed at Box 125, Soso, MS 39480.



Beck

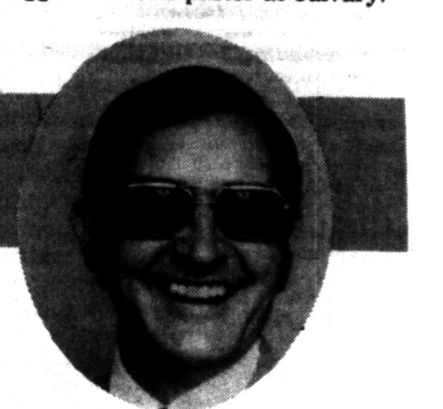
Doug Warren has been called by the Bethel Church of Monticello as interim pastor. He was pastor of Calvary Church, Silver Creek, from November 1975 to October 1979. Now residing in Jackson, he may be contacted at 354-6881 days; or 322-2154 evenings. His

address is 2281 Charmwood Circle, Jackson, MS. 39204.

Stanley E. Nowell has been called as minister of music and youth at Calvary Church, Batesville.

A graduate of Clarke College and Delta State University, he is now a student at Mid-America Seminary in Memphis. Nowell has been associated with Camp Lakeside as associate director and director for several years. (Camp Lakeside is a ministry of the Tal-lahatchie Baptist Association.) His most recent work was with Emmanuel Church in Greenwood as minister of music and youth. He is a native of Sumner, Miss., and is married to the former Janet Reid of Clarksdale.

Stanley succeeds Danny Perkins, who served Calvary for several years as volunteer music director. Floyd Higginbotham is pastor at Calvary.



## Life and Work Lesson

### The Fullness Of Time

By W. Thomas Baddley  
First Church, Brandon  
Galatians 4:4-5; Matthew 1:18-25

The roads are filled with traffic, the stores are jammed with people, and the people are filled with great anxiety. This is the scene of Christmas 1979. Looming over the horizon are those deadlines that have us tied in knots. Whether it is finding the right Christmas present for each person before Christmas morning, or "finding" the right notes to put the finishing touches on this year's cantata, deadlines are giving us ulcers. As we move from one deadline to the next, it seems that our pace must be quickened or we'll fall behind and be trampled by others in the same rat race.

The Bible tells us that God's wisdom and plan is not like that. He knows and has planned His acts of love and grace, waiting for the best possible time to break into our world.

#### I. The Fullness Of Time And God's Mighty Act (Galatians 4:4-5)

1. "But when the fullness of the time was come" (v. 4a) — Some argue that God was waiting for man to make progress enough to receive God's gift while others insist that God was waiting for man to sink low enough so that they would accept His gift. It would seem that Paul, in writing these words, accepted God's divine knowledge that the time was right. God took the initiative in meeting man's need.

2. "God sent forth His Son" (v. 4b) — The Son already was. He had been with God from the beginning, was the agent of creation (John 1), and now was "sent forth" by the Father. It is interesting that the word used for "sent forth" is the same one from which the term "apostle" comes. The Son was commissioned with a task of redemption for a world in bondage.

3. "Made of a woman, made under the law" (v. 4c) — Though there is no specific reference to the virgin birth in Paul's writings, this phrase would be unnecessary if it didn't imply that fact. Remember that Paul and Luke, who wrote so specifically of the virgin birth, were constant companions. The divine Son took on human nature and placed Himself under the law and all of the requirements imposed thereby. He then fulfilled all the requirements of the law in order that He might be able to offer all men deliverance from the

bondage of law.

4. "To redeem those who were under the law," (v. 5a) — The word "redeem" comes from the market place. By his righteous life and personal sacrifice, Jesus purchased us out of bondage to the law and delivered us out from under the sentence of condemnation. Herschel Hobbs in GALATIANS, A VERSE BY VERSE STUDY brings out an often overlooked point. "It is not a price paid to Satan, else he would be more powerful than God. It was paid to God Himself in order to satisfy the demands of His holy, righteous nature." God would not compromise the requirement of righteousness, but His love led to the sacrifice of His own Son, so we could be made righteous.

5. "That we might receive the adoption of sons" (v. 5b) — Once we are bought with a price (redeemed) then we are eligible for "adoption." It isn't automatic. It depends on our response by faith to God's invitation to join His family. Those who respond and receive adoption possess not only a new name, but have a new family relationship and the image of Christ is stamped upon them.

#### II. Emmanuel — God With Us (Matthew 1:18-25)

This account of Jesus' birth is usually combined with that of Luke to give us the familiar story. But, let's not let familiarity dull the significance of the message included.

The lengthy genealogy (Matt. 1:1-17) linking Jesus to Abraham and David creates the expectancy of fulfillment and recalls the great promises of God's covenants with Abraham and David. But the fulfillment of prophecy takes a secondary position to the emphasis on the divine origin of Jesus.

In our celebration of the birth of Christ, we most often neglect the sufferings that must have accompanied the days preceding. From Luke we are told of the visit of the angel Gabriel to Mary announcing the plan of God and explaining the possibility of her pregnancy. It was to be the Son of God. She accepted by faith her role. When Joseph became aware of her pregnancy, it was a devastating blow. It appeared to be socially unacceptable, seemingly the result of indiscretion and infidelity to their vows of betrothal. Again, the angel instructed. Again, the response was positive. By

faith, Joseph obeyed God's instruction. Together, he and Mary must have faced the snide comments and social exclusion as they did God's will.

Isaiah 7:14 is quoted to demonstrate again that God is truthful and faithful. He did what He had promised. The reminder of the name in Isaiah's prophecy is significant, too. "Emmanuel — God with us" now became a fulfilled promise. God became man and dwelt among us.

The angel instructed Joseph to name the child Jesus. This is the equivalent of the Hebrew name Joshua, which means "God is salvation." Even in His name, the messianic mission of the Saviour was affirmed.

Having faithfully accepted God's plan, they lived it out. When the babe was born, the name was given — "Jesus."

In the fullness of time, God did for us what we couldn't do for ourselves; gave to us what we couldn't obtain by our own resources; offered to us eternal life.

### A Christmas I Remember

As the Christmas season approaches my mind wants to reminisce, and I find myself down memory's lane at a Christmas I shall never forget. To be perfectly honest I don't remember a single gift I received that year. What I remember is the trip into the woods with my Dad to find a Christmas tree.

The snow was beginning to cover the ground and we had to hurry, so we hurried. But in those moments I experienced Christmas as my Dad took the time and let me go with him, to find the most beautiful Christmas tree we ever had. Trimming the tree (decorating as we called it then) was fun but it was the walk in the woods and helping my Dad pull the tree over the freshly fallen snow that made that Christmas so precious.

I learned again that my Dad loved me. Not by what he said, because he was a man of few words, but by his willingness to turn aside from his work to do something so special for "his little girl."

Isn't "love in action" what Christmas is all about?

—Ethel McKeithen

## Uniform Lesson

### The Incarnate Word Among Us

By Ed North, First, Quitman

John 1:1-14

I vividly recall sitting in the den with a good deacon and his family, watching with bated breath as Neal Armstrong took that first historic step upon the surface of the moon. What a glorious moment! Man had ascended to the heavens, and the world would never be quite the same again.

However, the greatest event in time and space was not man's stroll on the lunar surface. It was when God became man and dwelt among us. It was when heaven came down and touched the earth. It was when God identified with man's struggle and sin, and made a way out. John's Prologue speaks of both the Eternal Word and the Incarnate Word.

#### I. The Eternal Word (vv. 1-5)

The Christ who came to us in the "fullness of time" existed before time began. Jesus of Nazareth, the Logos, the Living Word from God, preexisted in the Godhead. He already was before "the beginning" (v. 1).

John stresses the unity of Son and Father: "... the Word was God." (v. 1). The preposition translated "with" in verse two suggests an action union with the Father. The Christ of history, seen of men, touched by men, heard by men, preexisted in the Godhead before history began. He has come to us as the perfect expression of the life of God.

Moreover, the Eternal Word was the agent of creation (v. 3). The Greek language insists that every minute detail of creation is His handiwork (Paul explores this truth in depth in Colossians 1:16-17).

Why is the Word, the Christ, the agent of creation? The Word is God's link with the world. God communicates through the Word to His world. Christ as the agent of creation implies that the physical universe is one forum through which God attempts to speak to us. The seen provides an analogy of the unseen.

Beyond this, Christ's activity in the creative process establishes His claim upon the universe. Every area of our existence falls within the province of His redemptive, reconciling work.

Finally, John says the Eternal Word is the source of life and light, (vv. 4-5).

The first five verses of John's Gospel read: almost like Genesis 1:1-5. Genesis records that God created a world in which light and darkness were differentiated. Because of man's fall into sin darkness achieved dominance in the universe. John records God's remedy for this malady. The Eternal Word is the source of life which, in turn, is the source of light for man. The Christ life has broken into the darkness of man's sin with the glorious light of God's love and grace. A better translation of verse five, and one which is cause for shouting, reads, "And, the light still shines in the darkness; and the darkness has never put it out." Amen!

#### II. The Incarnate Word (vv. 6-14)

God has always had a Word. The Almighty is not mute. But, the question of the ages has been how to convey that Word to man. God's answer is known as the Incarnation.

1. The Word Announced (vv. 6-9). Somewhere Edith Wharton says, "There are two ways of spreading light; to be the candle, or the mirror that reflects it." John the Baptist was the mirror. He was not the Light which would illumine man's path out of the morass of sin into the mansion of God's love and forgiveness, but the Light was reflected in his life, and he prepared the way for the Word.

2. The Word Become Flesh (v. 14). It is the truth so beautifully and perfectly expressed in this statement which sets Christianity apart from all the religions of the world. In all other philosophies and religions it is "word become word," "idea become idea." But, in Christianity, it is "Word become flesh." The heart and truth of our Faith lived in a man. Jesus could say of himself; "I am the truth." Ours is a personal religion.

The "Word become flesh" has obliterated the false division between the sacred and the secular. The presence of God has invaded, and continually touches, our world. This means that we cannot hide from this world in the modern monastery we call the "church on the corner." And, it means that we cannot hide from God by submerging ourselves in the world. If we are God's people anywhere, we are God's people everywhere.

3. The Word Rejected (vv. 10-11). The painful reality of Christ's rejection was etched for all time against a Judean sky by the cross of Calvary. The world rejected Him because it did not know (recognize) Him. The natural man has no understanding of spiritual matters. What you and I represent as Christians makes no sense to a godless world.

His own people rejected ("received Him not") Him because He did not measure up to their expectations of the Messiah. The Jews had God locked up in a nice, neat pattern. Jesus didn't fit that pattern, so they had only two choices: change their way of thinking or get rid of Him. Some people would rather kill than have to think new thoughts.

4. The Word Received (vv. 12-13). The sadness of rejection is overwhelmed by the wonder of acceptance. Some did receive Him, and to these He gave the "... power to become the sons of God ..." (v. 12). The word translated "power" is better rendered "right" or "authority." Through His redeeming life, death, and resurrection men are privileged to enter the family of God.

The new birth which John will elaborate on in chapter three is alluded to here in verse thirteen. Our entrance into God's family is not by human will or effort, but by the saving grace of God. We are begotten of the Father, in a spiritual sense, just as surely as was our Elder Brother, Jesus.

As the Word became flesh in Jesus, so must the Word become flesh in us. The only truth which sets men free is truth that is lived. The only truth which a skeptical, unbelieving world cannot deny is the truth which changes a man's life for the good. We must live the truth.

My personal prayer for each of you who have permitted me to share my thoughts with you for these six months is that the Incarnate Christ will be real and royal in your lives at this Holy Season, and all the days of your living.

Let no pleasure tempt thee, no profit allure thee, no ambition corrupt thee, to do anything which thou knowest to be evil; so shalt thou always live joyfully; for a good conscience is a continual Christmas. — Benjamin Franklin